

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please amend the abstract as follows:

To a neutral point of a motor [(14)] is connected a positive electrode of an auxiliary battery [(18)] and an auxiliary load [(20)]. Voltage on a power supply line to the auxiliary load [(20)], a neutral point voltage, is detected, and disconnection of the auxiliary battery [(18)] is determined when an increase of ripples in the neutral point voltage is detected. When a voltmeter cannot be used, control of the neutral point voltage is continued by measuring current of the auxiliary battery and performing control such that the current value becomes 0. A resolver is further provided on the motor [(14)] for detecting the rotor angle with high accuracy. A control circuit generates, in accordance with an output of the resolver, a voltage control signal for each phase current having the same amplitude as the carrier amplitude during startup, and compares the voltage control signal to carrier to obtain a gate signal having the same frequency as the carrier frequency. In switching of the inverter [(12)], due to this gate signal, periods in which all phases are on or off are reduced, thereby preventing a large neutral point current.